How would you characterise your views on the Bill in general?

How would you characterise your views on the introduction of same sex marriage, so that same sex couples can marry each other?

In opposition

I am a Bible believing Christian and find the idea to be anti-God, and to undermine the very fabric of our community and society. God's way has always been one man and one woman and for children to be raised and nourished by their own mother and father. I am all for giving folks their individual rights but this is taking things too far. Marriage as it stands should never be redefined. Later it will be attempts to legalise polygamy or three way relationships and to lower the age of consent to 15 then to 14. We could open the door for horror upon horror!

How would you characterise your views on putting belief celebrants on the same footing as religious celebrants?

How would you characterise your views on the arrangements for authorising celebrants to solemnise opposite sex and same sex marriage (including the opt-in procedures)?

How would you characterise your views on civil partnerships changing to marriages?

How would you characterise your views on allowing civil marriage ceremonies to take place anywhere, other than religious premises, agreed between the couple and registrar?

How would you characterise your views on allowing the religious and belief registration of civil partnerships?

How would you characterise your views on allowing transgender persons to stay married when obtaining a full Gender Recognition Certificate, which provides legal recognition in the acquired gender?
Would you like to comment on the wider issue of protections for those in society who may have concerns about same sex marriage?

Churches and registrars who refuse to marry same sex couples will possibly be charged and have to face court proceedings and registrars may be dismissed. Churches may later be refused the rights to marry altogether. Parents' rights to remove their children (espec. primary) from same-sex marriage lessons in schools should be protected. Charity law should be amended so that churches who stand against same-sex marriage will not lose their charitable status.

Would you like to comment on the wider issue of freedom of speech?

Total freedom of speech should be legally granted to all, so that individuals can speak out either privately or publicly against same-sex marriage without fear of being reported to the police and charged with an offense. Open-air preachers and the like should be free to proclaim their stand on same-sex marriage without fear of arrest.

Would you like to comment on any other wider issues in relation to the Bill that are not mentioned above?

Are you responding as...

a private individual
I have been a full time Christian Youth Worker for 32 years in Motherwell.

Ray Keilty
23 August 2013